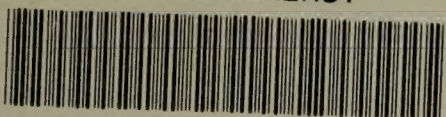


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1977

*Massachusetts
Coastal
Lobster Fishery
Statistics*

RICHARD W. BEALS
CAROL J. KILBRIDE
GERALD M. NASH



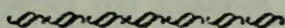
MASSACHUSETTS

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

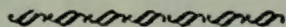


1977

*Massachusetts
Coastal
Lobster Fishery
Statistics*



by
Richard W. Beals, Sr. Marine Fisheries Biologist
Carol J. Kilbride, Sr. Marine Fisheries Biologist
Gerald M. Nash, Statistician
Department of Fisheries, Wildlife & Recreational Vehicles
Division of Marine Fisheries



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COASTAL MAP of MASSACHUSETTS
SHOWING STATISTICAL REPORTING AREAS (Counties)

1. Essex
2. Suffolk

3. Norfolk
4. Plymouth

5. Bristol
6. Barnstable

7. Dukes
8. Nantucket

Figure 1

INTRODUCTION

The coastal lobster fishery of Massachusetts continues to be the most economically important single fishery conducted within the territorial waters of the Commonwealth.

Each passing year finds the lobster fishery becoming even more complex, involving far-reaching biological, sociological and economic considerations.

A moratorium now limits the issuance of coastal lobster permits to 1,300 per year, with renewal preference given to fishermen who held a valid permit for the prior year, actually lobstered during that year, and filed a completed catch report. There is also a provision for the issuance of an additional 130 permits to those who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission that they would suffer a substantial hardship if the permit were not granted to them.

This report constitutes the tenth such annual presentation of coastal lobster statistics in a standardized format. It has been prepared by personnel of the division's commercial fisheries statistics project, financed jointly by state and federal funds under the Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Act of 1964, Public Law 88-309.

The coastal lobstermen of Massachusetts, commercial and non-commercial, potmen and/or divers, have provided the data included here through their annual catch reports. They deserve a special thanks, as do the division personnel who assisted in processing and preparing the wealth of material this report represents.

SOURCE OF DATA

No person may fish for or take lobsters or edible crabs in coastal waters or land the same in the Commonwealth without a permit issued by the Director, Division of Marine Fisheries (Chapter 130, G.L., Section 38).

Chapter 130, G.L., Section 33, requires any person so licensed to file an annual report of his catch by January 31 for the preceding calendar year. License renewal applications and catch report forms are mailed to licensees at the end of the calendar year.

The reports require the following information; permittees' name, address and permanent lobster number; method (s) used, (pots and/or diving); numbers, types and current value of gear used; percent that gear was used specifically for lobstering; numbers/pounds of lobsters taken and value if sold; principal port(s) of landing. Project personnel sort, edit and tabulate all reports.

Statistics presented in this booklet are based on reports received, and are not expanded to the 100% level.

EXPLANATION OF TABLES

AREA

Statistics are reported for the county in which the catch was landed. Data was placed in the county category of "other" when the catch was landed in more than two counties or the county of landing could not be determined.

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION

Massachusetts' coastal lobster fishermen fall into three distinct categories, with a specific license for each; full-time commercial (\$100), seasonal commercial (\$25), and non-commercial (\$15). For statistical purposes they are classed as "regular", "casual", and "other", respectively. They are further sub-classed according to their method of fishing; potmen, divers, or combination potmen-divers.

\$100 Commercial Coastal Lobster Permit entitles the licensee to use any number of pots and/or dive, to sell his catch and to fish within territorial waters throughout the calendar year. The license could be taken in his name or in the name of his boat, in which latter case anyone aboard the boat could assist him with no other licenses required.

A \$25 Seasonal Lobster Permit allows the licensee to use up to 25 pots from June 15 through September 15 and sell the catch. Diving is not allowed, and this permit is issued to full-time students only.

The \$15 Non-Commercial lobster permit authorizes the holder to fish for, take and land lobsters for consumption by himself or his immediate family only. The licensee could use up to ten pots and/or dive lobsters but could not sell his catch.

VALUES

The value of the catch is determined by the price received by the fisherman. When individual values were omitted, an average price for that area was applied to the poundage listed.

Gear values were calculated on the basis of the fisherman's estimate of its current value and the percentage of its use specifically for lobstering. Average gear values for the county were applied when data was omitted.

The average value of pots from all areas combined was \$15 per pot. This value was assigned where that data was omitted on the reports.

1977 HIGHLIGHTS

1) There were 10,072 coastal lobster licenses of all types issued in 1977: 1,371 full-time commercial, 142 seasonal commercial and 8,559 non-commercial.

2) Of a total of 5,713 lobster fishermen reporting, 2,129 reported they did not lobster during 1977.

3) A total of 5,765,530 pounds of lobsters were reported landed. Of these commercial fishermen (regular and casual) landed 5,432,427 pounds of lobsters which they sold for \$10,136,748.

4) Regular fishermen comprised 21% of the total numbers of lobstermen fishing, set 91% of the pots and landed 94% of the total pounds of lobsters taken.

5) Non-commercial ("other") fishermen comprised 77% of all fishermen and landed 6% of the total catch in pounds.

6) Divers comprised 34% of the fishermen reporting and landed less than 2% of the total poundage reported.

7) In total pounds of lobsters landed, Essex County ranked first, Plymouth County second, and Suffolk County third.

8) In total numbers of fishermen, Essex County ranked first with 2,164, Plymouth County second with 1,462, and Barnstable County third with 856.

9) Pots were valued at \$3,551,940, diving gear at \$638,555 and boats of all types at \$12,017,029, yielding a total gear value of \$16,207,524. Combining that with the value of lobsters sold \$10,136,748 gives a total fishery value of \$26,344,272.

The reader is referred to Tables 1-15 for detailed statistics.

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TABLE 1

COMPARISON OF SELECTED COASTAL LOBSTER STATISTICS

1972 - 1977

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Licenses Issued	7,729	9,048	9,688	9,744	9,637	10,072
Licenses Fishing	4,743	4,906	4,405	5,645	5,638	5,713
Lobsters Landed (lbs.)	4,222,097	3,680,554	3,882,535	5,203,315	5,053,453	5,765,530
Value, Lobsters Sold	\$4,015,962	\$5,092,988	\$5,515,851	\$8,827,005	\$8,270,520	\$10,136,748
Total Fishery Value*	\$10,689,238	\$11,138,352	\$12,049,535	\$21,011,917	\$21,907,174	\$26,344,272
Pots Fished	175,573	169,749	156,987	213,468	240,035	236,796
Average Catch (lbs.) All Fishermen	890	750	881	922	806	1,009
Reg. Fishermen	4,222	3,847	4,173	4,078	3,925	4,554
Casual Fishermen	201	200	159	183	189	211
Other Fishermen	66	65	61	67	65	75
Avg. Catch/Pot (lbs.)	24.0	21.3	22.8	24.4	20.9	24.3
Avg. Price/ (lbs.)	123.3¢	148.6¢	150.2¢	179.9¢	173.3¢	186.6¢
Avg. Wt./Lobster (lbs.)	1.19	1.14	1.27	1.31	1.20	1.19

* Includes value of lobsters sold, current value of boats, pots, diving gear.

TABLE 2

Number and Types of Lobster Licenses Issued in 1977

\$100 Commercial (coastal)	1,371
\$25 Seasonal	142
\$15 Non-Commercial	<u>8,559</u>
TOTAL	10,072

TABLE 3

Status of Licensees Filing Catch Reports for 1977

Licensees Reporting	5,713
Licensees Fishing:	
\$100 Commercial	1,189
\$25 Seasonal	83
\$15 Non-Commercial	<u>4,441</u>
TOTAL	5,713
Licensees Not Fishing in 1977	2,129

TABLE 4

Total Value of Massachusetts Coastal Lobster Fishery, 1977*

Gear:

Pots	\$3,551,940
Diving Gear	638,555
Boats	<u>12,017,029</u>
Lobster Sold	<u>10,136,748</u>
TOTAL	\$26,344,272

*Based on Annual Reports of Fishermen

TABLE 5

NUMBER OF FISHERMEN
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY

1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES										TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	PLYMOUTH	SUFFOLK	OTHER		
REGULAR	117	65	29	508	5	61	276	93	5	1,159	
POTMEN	5	1						1		7	
DIVERS	9			5		4	4	1		23	
POTMAN-DIVERS											
SUB-TOTAL	131	66	29	513	5	65	280	95	5	1,189	
CASUAL											
POTMEN	5	4		30		3	37	4		83	
DIVERS											
POTMAN-DIVERS											
SUB-TOTAL	5	4		30		3	37	4		83	
OTHER											
POTMEN	480	114	70	554	9	102	707	163	36	2,235	
DIVERS	184	11	7	983		58	354	162	162	1,921	
POTMAN-DIVERS	56	4	4	84		10	84	35	8	285	
SUB-TOTAL	720	129	81	1,621	9	170	1,145	360	206	4,441	
TOTAL	856	199	110	2,164	14	238	1,462	459	211	5,713	

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

Division of Marine Fisheries

TABLE 5

NUMBERS OF LOBSTERS LANDED
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY
1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES									TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	PLYMOUTH	SUFFOLK	OTHER	
REGULAR										
POTMEN	309,934	165,104	46,915	2,021,859	4,143	321,891	886,915	764,891	26,200	4,547,852
DIVERS	8,490	66						820		9,376
POTMAN-DIVERS	17,415			11,023		7,781	8,857	1,545		46,620
SUB-TOTAL	335,839	165,170	46,915	2,032,882	4,143	329,672	895,772	767,256	26,200	4,603,848
CASUAL										
POTMEN	380		282	5,037		917	6,678	482		13,776
DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS										
SUB-TOTAL	380		282	5,037		917	6,678	482		13,776
OTHER										
POTMEN	27,997	6,450	3,200	43,430	391	10,403	51,460	14,813	2,057	160,201
DIVERS	7,542	305	123	24,685		1,942	11,251	6,611	2,934	55,393
POTMAN-DIVERS	3,449	246	39	5,900		1,538	5,463	2,350	433	19,418
SUB-TOTAL	38,988	7,001	3,362	74,015	391	13,883	68,174	23,774	5,424	235,012
TOTAL	375,207	172,171	50,559	2,111,933	4,534	344,472	970,624	791,512	31,624	4,852,636

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

Division of Marine Fisheries

TABLE 7

POUNDS OF LOBSTERS LANDED
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY

1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES									TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	PLYMOUTH	SUFFOLK	OTHER	
REGULAR POTMEN	460,988	201,161	54,924	2,279,355	6,425	380,186	1,036,525	877,023	31,783	5,328,370
	16,233	82						900		17,215
POTMAN-DIVERS	36,299			12,183		8,867	10,043	1,955		69,347
SUB-TOTAL	513,520	201,243	54,924	2,291,538	6,425	389,053	1,046,568	879,878	31,783	5,414,932
CASUAL										
POTMEN	604		425	6,189		1,075	8,613	589		17,495
DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS										
SUB-TOTAL	604		425	6,189		1,075	8,613	589		17,495
OTHER										
POTMEN	39,339	9,096	4,627	55,454	718	13,949	68,997	20,508	2,649	215,337
DIVERS	13,804	465	199	37,271		3,043	18,389	11,045	4,604	88,816
POTMAN-DIVERS	6,134	459	56	7,657		2,416	8,151	3,453	624	28,950
SUB-TOTAL	59,277	10,020	4,882	100,382	718	19,408	95,533	35,006	7,877	333,103
TOTAL	573,401	211,263	60,231	2,398,109	7,143	409,536	1,150,714	915,473	39,660	5,765,530

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

Division of Marine Fisheries

TABLE 8
EX-VESSEL VALUE OF LOBSTERS LANDED
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY

1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES									TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	PLYMOUTH	SUFFOLK	OTHER	
REGULAR										
POTMEN	960,407	384,347	116,132	4,193,852	13,703	707,649	1,947,451	1,556,153	52,297	9,931,991
DIVERS	32,462	150						1,530		34,142
POTMAN-DIVERS	76,498			24,001		15,994	18,344	3,930		138,767
SUB-TOTAL	1,069,367	384,497	116,132	4,217,853	13,703	723,643	1,965,795	1,561,613	52,297	10,104,900
CASUAL										
POTMEN	1,094		965	11,744		1,940	15,105	1,000		31,848
DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS										
SUB-TOTAL	1,094		965	11,744		1,940	15,105	1,000		31,848
OTHER										
POTMEN										
DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS										
SUB-TOTAL										
TOTAL	1,070,461	384,497	117,097	4,229,597	13,703	725,583	1,980,900	1,562,613	52,297	10,136,748

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

Division of Marine Fisheries

TABLE 9

NUMBER OF POTS FISHED
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY

1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES									TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	PLYMOUTH	SUFFOLK	OTHER	
REGULAR POTMEN	22,720	11,920	3,889	84,915	777	11,027	47,706	28,742	680	212,376
POTMEN DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS	1,923			780		760	550	100		4,113
SUB-TOTAL	24,643	11,920	3,889	85,695	777	11,787	48,256	28,842	680	216,489
CASUAL POTMEN	70		60	622		62	744	58		1,616
POTMEN DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS										
SUB-TOTAL	70		60	622		62	744	58		1,616
OTHER POTMEN	3,110	885	467	4,460	53	750	5,623	1,179	277	16,804
POTMEN DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS	325	31	22	567		85	567	240	50	1,887
SUB-TOTAL	3,435	916	489	5,027	53	835	6,190	1,419	327	18,691
TOTAL	28,148	12,836	4,438	91,344	830	12,684	55,190	30,319	1,007	236,796

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

• Division of Marine Fisheries

TABLE 10

VALUE OF POTS FISHED
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY

1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES									TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	PLYMOUTH	SUFFOLK	OTHER	
REGULAR										
POTMEN	340,800	178,800	58,335	1,273,725	11,655	165,405	715,590	431,130	10,200	3,185,640
DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS	28,845			11,700		11,400	8,250	1,500		61,695
SUB-TOTAL	369,645	178,800	58,335	1,285,425	11,655	176,805	723,840	432,630	10,200	3,247,335
CASUAL										
POTMEN	1,050		900	9,330		930	11,160	870		24,240
DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS										
SUB-TOTAL	1,050		900	9,330		930	11,160	870		24,240
OTHER										
POTMEN	46,650	13,275	7,005	66,900	795	11,250	84,345	17,685	4,155	252,060
DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS	4,875	465	330	8,505		1,275	8,505	3,600	750	28,305
SUB-TOTAL	51,525	13,740	7,335	75,405	795	12,525	92,850	21,285	4,905	280,365
TOTAL	422,220	192,540	66,570	1,370,160	12,450	190,260	827,850	454,785	15,105	3,551,940

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

TABLE 11

VALUE OF DIVING GEAR
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY

1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES									TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	PLYMOUTH	SUFFOLK	OTHER	
REGULAR POTMEN										
DIVERS	11,820	550						250		12,620
POTMAN-DIVERS	7,375			795		740	950	30		9,890
SUB-TOTAL	19,195	550		795		740	950	280		22,510
CASUAL POTMEN										
DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS										
SUB-TOTAL										
OTHER POTMEN										
DIVERS	59,207	3,597	1,187	270,464	0	17,028	110,105	44,266	41,877	547,731
POTMAN-DIVERS	15,029	1,399	429	20,941	0	3,871	19,204	5,611	1,830	68,314
SUB-TOTAL	74,236	4,996	1,616	291,405	0	20,899	129,309	49,877	43,707	616,045
TOTAL	93,431	5,546	1,616	292,200	0	21,639	130,259	50,157	43,707	638,555

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

Division of Marine Fisheries

TABLE 12

NUMBER OF INBOARD BOATS
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY

1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES									TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	PLYMOUTH	SUFFOLK	OTHER	
REGULAR										
POTMEN	62	44	21	347	2	30	142	65	4	717
DIVERS	2									2
POTMAN-DIVERS	3			3		1	1			8
SUB-TOTAL	67	44	21	350	2	31	143	65	4	727
CASUAL										
POTMEN				5			1			6
DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS										
SUB-TOTAL				5			1			6
OTHER										
POTMEN	56	17	12	60	2	14	99	59	4	323
DIVERS	2	1	0	27	0	2	9	14	0	55
POTMAN-DIVERS	4	0	0	13	0	4	11	12	2	46
SUB-TOTAL	62	18	12	100	2	20	119	85	6	424
TOTAL	129	62	33	455	4	51	263	150	10	1,157

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

Division of Marine Fisheries

TABLE 13

VALUE OF INBOARD BOATS
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY

1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES									TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	PLYMOUTH	SUFFOLK	OTHER	
REGULAR POTMEN	1,422,900	600,700	220,230	3,242,940	15,429	494,130	1,575,417	780,825	67,250	8,419,821
DIVERS	7,700									7,700
POTMAN-DIVERS	90,000			33,750		5,000	5,000			133,750
SUB-TOTAL	1,520,600	600,700	220,230	3,276,690	15,429	499,130	1,580,417	780,825	67,250	8,561,271
CASUAL POTMEN				3,925			500			4,425
DIVERS										
POTMAN DIVERS										
SUB-TOTAL				3,925			500			4,425
OTHER POTMEN	158,891	27,627	26,534	106,251	5,010	13,838	222,385	162,292	5,629	728,457
DIVERS	4,400	1,000	0	78,680	0	6,600	13,690	43,504	0	147,874
POTMAN-DIVERS	5,855	0	0	17,550	0	2,925	19,445	21,246	2,093	70,114
SUB-TOTAL	170,146	28,627	26,534	202,481	5,010	23,363	255,520	227,042	7,722	946,445
TOTAL	1,690,746	629,327	246,764	3,483,096	20,439	522,493	1,836,437	1,007,867	74,972	9,512,141

* Based on annual reports filed by fishermen

Division of Marine Fisheries

TABLE 14

NUMBER OF OUTBOARD AND NON-POWER BOATS
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY
1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES									TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	PLYMOUTH	SUFFOLK	OTHER	
REGULAR POTMEN	82	26	14	231	4	43	187	27	1	615
DIVERS	4	1						1		6
POTMAN-DIVERS	14			5		3	3	1		26
SUB-TOTAL	100	27	14	236	4	46	190	29	1	647
CASUAL POTMEN	5		6	23		3	36	4		77
DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS										
SUB-TOTAL	5		6	23		3	36	4		77
OTHER POTMEN	229	81	38	383	6	69	488	68	22	1,384
DIVERS	35	1	1	73	0	4	43	11	4	172
POTMAN-DIVERS	36	4	4	46	0	4	59	18	1	172
SUB-TOTAL	300	86	43	502	6	77	590	97	27	1,728
TOTAL	405	113	63	761	10	126	816	130	28	2,452

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

TABLE 15

VALUE OF OUTBOARD AND NON-POWER BOATS
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY

1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES									TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	PLYMOUTH	SUFFOLK	OTHER	
REGULAR										
POTMEN	172,758	38,158	10,950	401,923	4,159	134,660	307,815	78,198	300	1,148,921
DIVERS	8,200	500						2,000		10,700
POTMAN-DIVERS	19,738			4,148		9,500	5,760	810		39,950
SUB-TOTAL	200,696	38,658	10,950	406,068	4,159	144,160	313,575	81,008	300	1,199,571
CASUAL										
POTMEN	4,175		980	13,817		2,640	22,998	1,686		46,296
DIVERS										
POTMAN-DIVERS										
SUB-TOTAL	4,175		980	13,817		2,640	22,998	1,686		46,296
OTHER										
POTMEN	206,220	62,782	27,744	266,760	2,075	49,478	349,035	49,074	26,869	1,040,037
DIVERS	17,712	12	200	52,408		3,540	28,399	3,274	1,867	107,413
POTMAN-DIVERS	28,676	1,601	6,430	27,712		2,496	29,751	9,505	5,400	111,571
SUB-TOTAL	252,608	64,395	34,374	346,880	2,075	55,514	407,185	61,853	34,136	1,259,021
TOTAL	457,476	103,053	46,304	766,768	6,234	202,314	743,758	144,547	34,436	2,504,888

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

Division of Marine Fisheries

